

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 16, 20, 21, 38-43 and 55-81 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 14, 67, 72, 76 and 77 being independent. Claims 3, 5, 6, 18, 19, 29-37 and 44-54 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of these claims in a continuation application. Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 16, 20, 21 and 38-43 have been amended, and claims 55-81 have been added. Support for the amendments and the new claims may be found in the published application (US 2004/0172455) at least at paragraphs 0065-0067 and Figs. 6 and 7. No new matter has been introduced.

Independent claims 1 and 14, and their dependent claims 16 and 38-43, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Doss (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0046296) in view of Begole (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0039630) and Lee (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0233265). Dependent claims 7, 8, 20 and 21, which depend from claims 1 and 14, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Doss in view of Begole, Lee and Widger (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0117733).

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites, among other features, a computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program that includes instructions that cause a computer to determine a number of unread e-mail messages exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users; and conditioned on the number of unread e-mail messages being greater than zero, display, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been exchanged between the user and the first co-user. The computer readable medium further includes instructions embodied thereon to cause a computer to enable the user to select the first graphical element, receive a selection of the first graphical element by the user; and in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user, display to the user the number of unread e-mail messages exchanged between the user and the first co-user. Independent claim 14 recites limitations similar to those of independent claim 1 but in the context of a method. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 14, and their dependent claims, because neither Doss, Begole, Lee, Widger, nor any proper combination of the four describes or suggests the recited conditionally displaying, within

the recited window and in association with an identifier corresponding to a co-user of an instant messaging system displayed in a contacts list in the window, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been exchanged between the user and the co-user, and that is selectable by the user to display to the user the number of unread e-mail messages exchanged between the user and the co-user.

The Examiner relies on Begole for disclosing the previously pending features related to the display of an indication in the recited window that reflects e-mail exchanges between a user and another user. In particular, the Examiner relies on Begole's e-mail receptiveness indicator referred to in paragraph 0180 of Begole in reference to Fig. 13 of Begole. Begole's e-mail receptiveness indicator, however, is not conditionally displayed based on the number of unread e-mail messages between a user and another user being greater than zero, does not indicate to the user that unread e-mail messages have been exchanged between the user and the other user, and is not selectable by a user to display the number of unread e-mail messages exchanged between the user and the other user. Rather, Begole's e-mail receptiveness indicator is a graphical coloring of a user identifier that provides an indication of how receptive or responsive the corresponding user is to e-mail. For example, a person who is deemed receptive to e-mail from the user may have their corresponding user identifier colored green while a person who is deemed not very receptive to e-mail from the user may have their corresponding user identifier colored red. A person who is deemed receptive to e-mail is more likely to quickly respond to e-mails from a sender.

Notably, Begole does not describe or suggest that this indicator is conditionally presented based on the existence of unread e-mail, much less unread mail exchanged between the user and the other user to which the e-mail receptiveness indicator relates. Moreover, Begole does not describe or suggest that this indicator is selectable, much less that it is selectable to display the number of unread e-mail messages exchanged between the user and the other user to which the e-mail receptiveness indicator relates. Additionally, e-mail receptiveness indicates, just that, receptivity to e-mail and, therefore, does not indicate to the user the existence of unread e-mail messages exchanged between the user and the other user to which the e-mail receptiveness indicator relates. For example, a user may read all of their e-mail immediately upon receipt such

that the user rarely has any unread e-mail at any given time. However, the user may take a very long time in responding back to the senders of the e-mails, thereby causing the user's receptiveness indicator be red (i.e., not receptive to e-mail).

Doss, Lee, and Widger, alone or in combination, fail to remedy the failure of Begole to describe or suggest displaying the above-recited first graphical element.

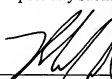
For at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 14, and their dependent claims.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The fees in the amount of \$930 (\$810 for request for continued examination and \$120 for one month extension of time) are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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